

REMARKS

Objection to Specification

Per Examiner's suggestion, the term "engage" has been changed to "engaged" in paragraph 27, found on page 5 of the application.

Objections to Claims

Claim 8 has been objected to because of informalities.

Claim 8 is herewith cancelled.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Skinner (U.S. 4,428,718).

Claim 1 is herewith amended to recite "said drive shaft further having *a first annular groove* between said second end and said swash plate assembly; and *a second annular groove* between said first annular groove and said swash plate assembly; wherein *each of said first and second annular groove includes a side* that is substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and *facing said swash plate assembly*; and wherein said *retainer ring abuts against one of said sides*." Emphasis added

Skinner does not disclose a shaft having a first annular groove and a second annular groove, wherein each of the grooves includes a side facing a swash plate assembly, and a retainer ring abutting against one of the sides. To assist the Examiner in distinguishing the present

invention over Skinner, Applicants have attached Fig. 1 of Skinner marked with a red circle indicated as A-A. Also attached is a detailed enlargement of circle A-A.

In reference to the detail circle A-A, Skinner shows a thrust washer 32, slipped over a reduce diameter of a drive shaft 26. Please note the width of the inner diameter of the thrust washer 32 relative to the width of the reduced diameter of the drive shaft 26 is highlighted in red. The drive shaft 26 is axially retained by the thrust washer 32 inward of the needle bearing 28, wherein the thrust washer 32 is pressed against a cylinder block 20 by a beveled portion of the drive shaft 26. The thrust washer 32 does not and can not abut against a side of the groove that is facing the swash plate assembly. In other words, the thrust washer 32 is literally incapable of abutting against the relevant side of the annular groove.

Applicants believe that currently amended claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over Skinner. Claims 2-7 ultimately depend upon amended claim 1, reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested for claims 1-7.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC § 103

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Skinner, in view of Kato (U.S. 5,772,407), Tagami (U.S. 6,578,465), Kurosawa (U.S. 4,732,544), and Hiraga (4,586,874).

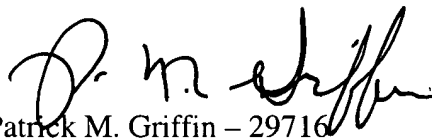
To place the application in a better condition for allowance, claim 8 is herewith cancelled.

Conclusion

It is believed, in view of the amendments and remarks herein, that all grounds of rejection of claims 1-7 have been addressed and overcome, and that all claims are in condition for allowance. If it would further prosecution of the application, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned at the phone number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. M. Griffin".

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